

Autism Research at the Waisman Center

University of Wisconsin - Madison

Studies currently recruiting participants:

- **Brain Structure and Function: Autism fMRI Study** - Waisman Center investigator Kim Dalton, Ph.D. and colleagues are studying brain structure and function in individuals with autism. Participation involves one 2-hour session at the Waisman Center, during which the individual completes various cognitive activities while an fMRI records brain activity. The study is looking for males and females between 5 - 35 years old with a diagnosis of Williams syndrome, fragile X syndrome or autism. All participants will be paid for their time and will receive pictures of their brain. Braces or permanent retainers make an individual ineligible for this study. **To participate, contact Kim Dalton at: (608) 263-8913 or email: kmdalton@wisc.edu.** Website: <http://brainimaging.waisman.wisc.edu>
- **Toddler Talk Project: Early Language Abilities of Toddlers with Autism Spectrum Disorder** - Waisman Center investigators Susan Ellis Weismer, Ph.D., and Morton Gernsbacher, Ph.D., are investigating early language development in toddlers on the autism spectrum. Toddlers under 3 years of age who have an autism diagnosis (autism, PDD-NOS, Asperger's) OR who are suspected to be on the autism spectrum are invited to participate. Participation will involve parent completion of surveys and questionnaires about their child's developmental history and current behavior, and two in-home developmental assessments conducted on two separate occasions. **To participate, contact the Early Autism Communication Research Clinic at: (608) 263-3123 or email: EACRC@waisman.wisc.edu.** Website: www.waisman.wisc.edu/lpl
- **Twin Autism Project** - Another study is recruiting twins, 2 - 21 years old, in which one or both twins has autism and lives anywhere in Wisconsin or adjoining states. Two goals of this study are to determine if twins are at any increased risk for autism and to better understand genetic factors in autism. **To participate, contact the Twin Autism Project at: (608) 262-5574 or toll-free at: (866) 230-2560 or email: tap@waisman.wisc.edu.** Website: www.waisman.wisc.edu/twinresearch
- **Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS) Training** - The ADOS is considered to be one of the best assessments for diagnosing autism. The assessment consists of several interactive "play" activities that allow the interviewer to observe an individual's communication and social behavior. We are currently seeking individuals of all ages who have been diagnosed with autism to help train Waisman Center staff on how to conduct the assessment. Individuals of all communication ability levels are eligible to participate. Participation involves 1 visit to the Waisman Center that lasts no more than one hour, and the parent may be asked to stay in the room. The session will be videotaped in order to evaluate the interviewer's techniques and accuracy of diagnostic conclusions. *Please note that because the ADOS is being administered for research training purposes only, participants will not receive any information about clinical impressions from the assessment.* **To participate, contact Susan Vial at: (608) 263-5192, or toll-free at: (800) 965-9205, or email: vial@waisman.wisc.edu.**
- **Study of Latino Families with Children who have Autism** - To date, very few research projects have explored the experiences of Latino children with autism and their families. We are excited to announce a new interview-based study for Latino parents who have children with an autism spectrum diagnosis between 3 and 21 years old. Interviews will be conducted in the language of preference (Spanish or English). The study aims to understand the strengths and challenges these families face in caring for a child with autism. The study will also look at how Latino children are diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder, and how families learn about and receive services. **To participate, contact Sandy Magaña at: (608) 263-0270 or email: magana@waisman.wisc.edu.** Website: www.waisman.wisc.edu/family/cultural-study-info.html

See other side for more information → → →

Reports from a study on Families of Adolescents and Adults with Autism available on-line!

Although the project is no longer recruiting participants, reports from Lifespan Family Research being conducted at the Waisman Center are available at:

www.waisman.wisc.edu/family/autism-study-info.html

Each report focuses on a certain topic:

Report #1: *Year One Book of Quotes*

Report #2: *A Profile of Adolescents and Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder*

Report #3: *Reflections from Adult Siblings who have a Brother or Sister with an Autism Spectrum Disorder*

Report #4: *Recommended Resources from Families of Adolescents and Adults with an Autism Spectrum Disorder*

Report #5: *Family Accommodations – A Study of Family Care giving*

Report #6: [Reflections from Adolescent Siblings Who Have a Brother/Sister with an Autism Spectrum Disorder](#)

Report #7: (Added 2/2006) [Health-Related Needs for Adolescents and Adults with Autism and Their Parents](#)

Report #8: *An Inside Perspective from Adolescents and Adults with an Autism Spectrum Disorder*

Report #9: *Study Update*

Report #10: *A Profile of Adolescent and Adult Siblings*



Would you like to be contacted to participate in Waisman Center research?

The Waisman Center's Research Participation Core maintains a confidential registry of families who would like to be notified about research opportunities. There are many different types of studies being conducted at the Waisman Center: some projects seek participants who have a specific developmental disability, while others require typically developing participants, sometimes children are needed to participate and other times their parents or siblings are the participants. *Please note that enrolling in the registry does not obligate your family to participate in a project and you may withdraw from the registry any time.*

To enroll in our participant registry, please contact:

Susan Vial at: (608) 263-5192

Toll-free at: (800) 965-9205

Email: vial@waisman.wisc.edu

For a list of studies currently seeking participants or for more information, visit the Research Participation Core's website at: www.waisman.wisc.edu/rpc/index.html